

# 2019 Deer Hunting Report for the Town of Carlisle

Deer Committee: Barney Arnold (Selectwoman), Dan Bojanic (Deer Agent), Det. Andrew Corwin (Carlisle Police), Jonathan DeKock (Trails Committee), John Keating (Member at Large), Alex Parra (Conservation Commission), Todd Thorsen (Board of Health).

## Executive Summary

The Carlisle Deer Hunt ran from Oct 7 through to Nov 30, 2019. Eighteen hunters hunted on Town land and six deer were harvested this year with a cumulative total of sixteen since the program started. There were zero safety incidents and no reported infractions.

## Introduction and Background

This is a report on the second year of the Carlisle Deer Hunting program which ran from October 7 through to November 30, 2019. A total of eighteen hunters participated in the program which is the same number as for 2018. Seventeen of the hunters from the previous season were included, and one Carlisle resident who was on the waitlist was added.

Only bowhunting was allowed. This is considered the safest form of hunting (over shotgun and muzzleloader), being a short range (~20 yard) activity. There has never been a safety incident in Massachusetts involving a bowhunter shooting a member of the public.

Hunters were located in temporary tree stands about 20 feet high, shooting in a downward direction and away from the trails. Thirteen hunters used compound bows and five hunters used crossbows. The latter had a special permit, owing to a permanent disability, rendering them unable to draw a vertical bow (as per Mass Wildlife licensing).

Hunters were required to observe state-determined setbacks of 500 feet from an occupied dwelling and 150 feet from a paved road. Additionally, they were required to locate their stands at least 100 feet away from a marked trail and not to shoot in the direction of any proximal trail. Based on experience from the 2018 hunt, the regulations for 2019 were further enhanced by the Deer Control Committee and approved by the Selectmen (see reference materials below for link to the regulations). Key enhancements to the regulations were as follows:

- Tree stands less than 150 feet from a trail must not point towards the trail
- Expulsion penalty specified for not removing entrails
- Expulsion penalty specified for hunting outside Town Land boundaries

In addition, wording of the large format yellow signage put up at trailheads to the hunting parcels was improved and approved by Town Counsel.

As Carlisle is part of Zone 10 the season started on October 7, two weeks ahead of Zones 1-9 since MassWildlife is attempting to reduce the deer population in eastern Massachusetts. Following public feedback, we decided to end the season on November 30th which was the last day of the archery only season although archery is legally permitted by MassWildlife until December 31.

Neither hunters or members of the public were requested or required to wear orange clothing.

### Hunting Parcels

The same five parcels from the previous year were hunted; 270 out of approximately 1,100 acres of Town-owned land (25%) being made available. Based on feedback from both hunters and the public, we moved two hunters from the Davis Corridor Malcolm Meadows parking lot to two recently identified parking locations on East Street abutting the Town Forest.

The distribution of the 18 hunters thus was as follows:

- Benfield (2, same as 2018)
- Conant Land (2, same as 2018)
- Davis Corridor (includes Sachs Greenway) (6, down from 8 in 2018)
- Greenough (North 2, South 2, same as 2018)
- Town Forest (4, up from 2 in 2018)

Specific locations and boundaries for each of the hunting parcels are shown here - <https://app.box.com/s/9so9trkj9wn3qtb4xwkcebxmmdno4tra>.

### Hunter Credentials

In order to be eligible for selection, hunters had to have appropriate Massachusetts hunting licenses as well as Bowhunter Education Certificates. The latter requirement was aimed at setting the bar as high as possible, enabling us to include only the most proficient and safe bowhunters.

In order to maintain continuity, all eighteen hunters from the previous year were invited to reapply. Seventeen accepted and one hunter asked to be excused this year on medical grounds. This enabled us to select a Carlisle resident who was on the priority waitlist. This resulted in eight resident and ten non-resident hunters in the program.

All hunters were subjected to CORI checks. The new hunter was also interviewed by members of the Deer Control Committee and tested for proficiency by the Deer Agent.

Hunters were issued permits comprising a sticker that had to be attached to their tree stand, a card to be carried by them at all times, and a windshield card to be displayed on their parked vehicle.

The Carlisle Police Department had access to an online database of all the hunters, their contact details, as well as parcel and parking assignments, in the event they were required to make contact, or resolve any public inquiries.

### Deer Harvest

In total six deer were taken, three bucks (males) and three does (females). Details are shown below.

Date	Sex	Parcel
October 15, 2019	F	Conant
October 18, 2019	M	Davis
October 19, 2019	F	Davis
November 4, 2019	M	Davis
November 16, 2019	F	Town Forest
November 26, 2019	M	Davis

All the deer were taken by five hunters, with one hunter harvesting two deer (with a crossbow). All the other deer were taken with vertical bows.

The cumulative total for the deer hunting program over a two year period now rests at sixteen.

#### Observations

There were no reported issues or infractions. Hunters reported that they had very positive interactions with members of the public walking the trails.

This is the second year where the Davis Corridor has yielded the most deer. In 2018 it accounted for 80% and this year 67% of all deer taken. When compared with the percentage of hunters for the two years (44% and 33% respectively), the Davis Corridor appears to have a higher enrichment of deer compared with the other parcels (statistical significance still to be assessed).

#### Reference materials

- Carlisle Deer Hunting Regulations - <https://www.carlislema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2116/Bow-Hunting-Regulations-Adopted-8-27-2019>
- Carlisle Deer Committee document storage area - <https://app.box.com/s/vcbw4rbwg8pu9b4em9qrqx285uspzfvs>
- Frequently Asked Questions - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HcmMklv2jmwYJH4Yl6mUxL9aT2rWK0RHNZzviZDmZc/edit?usp=sharing>
- Deer Control Committee Web Page - <https://www.carlislema.gov/196/Deer-Committee>